
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1000

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD EXAMINATION SERIES PROGRAM.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires, rather than allows, the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish a program that allows students to fulfill high school graduation requirements by earning a passing score on examinations. SDE has chosen not to establish such a program to date.

The bill requires SDE, by January 1, 2014, to approve or develop the examinations that may be used in the program. It allows a student to pass a single exam under this program, as an alternative to passing a series of exams. The bill delays, until the 2014-15 school year, when local or regional boards of education must allow students to graduate from high school after completing the board examination series with passing scores.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

High School Graduation Requirements

Students who achieve passing scores on the board examination series fulfill graduation requirements that include completion of a minimum number of required credit hours in prescribed subject areas (20 credits through the 2018-19 academic year and 25 credits on and after the 2019-20 year). The State Board of Education must give a board examination certificate to any student who successfully completes the SDE program, which Connecticut public colleges and universities must equate with a high school diploma when determining whether a student is eligible to enroll.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/13/2013)